pregnancy and whether the young woman returns to school and continues to pursue an education and career.

But it is the best interests of all—mother, child and community—that we help our children to delay pregnancy and the duties of parenthood, so that they themselves can continue to grow and develop and deal effectively with the many difficult issues of adolescence. This is necessary to provide healthy and productive adults. Furthermore, the children of adolescents are generally being raised by persons who are children themselves, without the benefit of the extended families of years past. They just don't have the parenting skills or the tolerance with maturity, and the children they raise demonstrate these deficiencies.

Therefore, what we need to do is to fix our neighborhoods, provide a good public educational system, to make sure that there are comprehensive health facilities which are accessible to the entire family, and to open up opportunities for self-fulfillment other than parenthood. For many of our youngsters, there is nothing else, and that is our fault, not theirs.

PROBLEMS WITH THE FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT COMPETITION ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 716. Simply put, this legislation states the Government's role and service function is for sale. The current draft, which was the subject of a joint House-Senate hearing on May 24, would replace the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A–76 Cost Comparison study. This detailed review process is the current system for competing and comparing commercial services between federal employees and contractor employees. The revised H.R. 716 turns out less objective and more ideological. Furthermore, this new policy provides a bias toward contracting out and would place the Government's role and service function up for bid over a 5 year period.

Currently, the federal government contracts out $110 billion annually. Under the policy of H.R. 716, the absence of sound Cost Comparison studies would allow private contractors to receive work without competing against federal workers. This simply results in a loss of federal employee jobs and questionable cost savings for taxpayers. What kind of message does Congress relay to a hard working federal workforce in our Districts and across the nation after their outstanding participation in the Vice President's reinventing government program? We should provide adequate resources and tools necessary to our valued federal employees.

H.R. 716 has three flaws:

(1) This legislation would replace the OMB Circular A–76 Cost Comparison study in favor of a pro-contractor system. Currently, federal employees regularly lose the competitions conducted under the OMB Circular A–76. Only a few years ago, federal employees lost approximately 70% of all contracts. Thanks to the continuing efforts of federal employees to reinvent themselves, they now win one-half of the public-private competitions. This dramatic change in fortunes for the contractors has inspired this recent legislative effort to do away with the OMB Circular A–76.

(2) This legislation would make public-private competitions subject to work which is inherently governmental. H.R. 716 would allow contractors to protest agencies' decisions to keep work in-house. In addition, this bill would allow contractors to challenge agency awards in federal claims court. As might be expected, federal employees would be forbidden from both challenging agencies' decisions about what is inherently governmental and would be bullied by the threat of costly and protracted litigation into contracting out as much work as possible. Decisions about awards and what is inherently governmental should continue to be made by department officials who are most familiar with the services actually provided.

(3) This legislation would mandate public-private competitions under a pro-contractor successor to the Cost Comparison study regardless of how well federal employees are actually performing their jobs.

After 12 years of Reagan-Bush political appointees, who largely disdained the public sector and racked up the largest service contracting out bills in the nation's history, it is difficult to argue that the reason more work has not been contracted out is to protect federal employees. Federal employees consistently and efficiently deliver the needs of service department customers at the prices taxpayers can afford. If federal employees are performing satisfactorily, then there is no need to impose public-private competitions.

Finally, the savings generated from this disruptive system of competitions would be short-lived and could very well disappear soon thereafter. Work contracted out is unlikely to ever be brought back in house because of the expense of recapitalizing in house capability and reassembling and retraining the necessary staff.

Moreover, this legislation fails to address several very serious problems:

Arbitrary personnel ceilings are already forcing work to be contracted out. Federal agencies do not have enough employees, so they simply contract out the work without any public-private cost comparisons. The size of the federal workforce has been dramatically reduced. Ironically, the American people have not been told federal employees are being replaced with contractor employees, often at greater expense.

Champions of contracting out say that private sector firms generate savings for taxpayers by devising more efficient ways of delivering services. However, some contracting out is done to devise better ways of delivering services and reducing their incentive to provide substandard wages and benefits. Today, the economy is booming and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects a budget surplus between $48 and $68 billion. However, income distribution grows worse and worse. How can the federal government justify replacing workers and middle class Americans with poorly paid, contingent workers?

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 716 is a pro-contractor bill that simply states the Government is for sale. Therefore, I urge my Colleagues to oppose this radical measure.

AIDS AWARENESS DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize June 5th, 1998 as ''AIDS Awareness Day'' in Santa Barbara County. I particularly want to honor the over three thousand bicycle riders participating in the 1998 ''AIDS Ride'' from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

This outstanding effort runs directly through my district. In the city of Santa Barbara, the ride attracts thousands of well-wishers, bringing much-needed awareness to this deadly disease. It is the result of thousands of hours of work, and the desire of thousands of individuals to improve treatment and find a cure for AIDS.

It is currently estimated that by the year 2000, 26.6 million people in the world could be living with the AIDS virus. We must do all we possibly can to encourage steps that both educate people about the disease, and help those who have been affected with it. Recognizing June 15th, 1998 as ''AIDS Awareness Day'' in Santa Barbara County is a way we can help recognize all the brave people involved in this noble effort.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON TIBET

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce with Mr. PORTER, Ms. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. COX, Mr. SMITH, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. KENNEDY (MA), and Ms. PELOSI, a House Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning the December 1997 report on Tibet of the International Commission of Jurists and on United States policy on Tibet.

This resolution reflects our serious concern for the plight of the Tibetan people and our strong support for the Dalai Lama's efforts to enter into serious discussions with the Chinese leadership on the future of Tibet.

The resolution cites a recent and comprehensive report by the International Committee of Jurists entitled ''Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law.'' It is the fourth report on Tibet by this distinguished body since 1959 and their first since 1964. The December 1997 report was inspired by the situation in Tibet that by all credible accounts, including the Department of State, remains unsettled and in many ways has grown more desperate.

I understand that Tibet, and more specifically the dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese leadership, is to be an important issue during the upcoming visit of President Clinton to Beijing. I hope that progress on Tibet will be made at the summit and this resolution is an effort to encourage that progress. Secretary Albright presented a strong case for progress on the dialogue in the summit preparatory meetings she held in Beijing earlier this month.